

Amendments to the Claims

A complete list of pending claims follows, with indicated amendments:

1. (Amended) A storage area network comprising:
 - a high speed network interconnect;
 - one or more target devices coupled to the high speed network interconnect, wherein each target device has a unique hardware address;
 - a host, wherein the host comprises a host bus adapter (~~HBA~~) operable to perform a port login with a target device; and
 - a unique hardware address table stored in a memory location associated with the host bus adapter, wherein the unique hardware address table stores the unique hardware address of every target device that the host is authorized to access such that the host bus adapter ~~HBA~~ will not attempt to perform a port login with a target device unless the unique hardware address of that target device is present on the unique hardware address table.
2. (Original) The storage area network of claim 1, wherein the unique hardware address is a port name.
3. (Original) The storage area network of claim 1, wherein the unique hardware address is a node name.
4. (Original) The storage area network of claim 1, wherein the unique hardware address is a World-Wide Name.

5. (Original) The storage area network of claim 1, wherein the target device is a storage device.

6. (Amended) The storage area network of claim 1, wherein the host bus adapter ~~HBA~~ comprises the memory.

7. (Original) The storage area network of claim 1, wherein the high speed network interconnect is a high speed optical network interconnect.

8. (Original) The storage area network of claim 1, wherein the high speed network interconnect is a Fibre Channel fabric.

9. (Amended) A method for managing a ~~the~~ port login performed by a host bus adapter (~~HBA~~) for a host that is communicatively coupled to a fabric, wherein one or more target devices, each having a unique hardware address, are coupled to the fabric; comprising the steps of:

from the host bus adapter, querying the fabric for available target devices;
receiving at the host bus adapter an identification of available target devices;
determining whether the unique hardware address of an available target device is present on a unique hardware address table stored in a memory location associated with the host bus adapter, wherein the unique hardware address table contains the unique hardware addresses of each target device that the host is authorized to access; and

performing a port login with each target device whose unique hardware address is present on the unique hardware address table.

10. (Original) The method of claim 9, wherein the unique hardware address is a port name.

11. (Original) The method of claim 9, wherein the unique hardware address is a node name.

12. (Original) The method of claim 9, wherein the unique hardware address is a World-Wide Name.

13. (Original) The method of claim 9, wherein the target device is a storage device.

14. (Amended) The method of claim 9, wherein the host bus adapter HBA comprises the memory.

15. (Original) The method of claim 9, wherein the fabric is a Fibre Channel fabric.

16. (Amended) A method for managing ~~a~~ the port login performed by a host bus adapter (HBA) for a host that is communicatively coupled to a fabric, wherein one or more target devices, each having a unique hardware address, are coupled to the fabric; comprising the steps of:

from the host bus adapter, querying the fabric for available target devices;
receiving at the host bus adapter an identification of available target devices;
selecting target devices that may be accessed by the host from the identification of
available target devices; and

storing the unique hardware address of the selected target devices to a unique hardware address access table, wherein the host bus adapter HBA will not perform a port login with a target device unless the unique hardware address of the target device is present on the unique hardware address table.

17. (Original) The method of claim 16, wherein the unique hardware address is a port name.

18. (Original) The method of claim 16, wherein the unique hardware address is a node name.

19. (Original) The method of claim 16, wherein the unique hardware address is a World-Wide Name.

20. (Original) The method of claim 16, wherein the target device is a storage device.

21. (Amended) The method of claim 16, wherein the host bus adapter HBA comprises the memory.

22. (Original) The method of claim 16, wherein the fabric is a Fibre Channel fabric.

23. (Amended) A host bus adapter (~~HBA~~) operable to perform a port login comprising:

a memory;

a unique hardware address access table in memory, operable to contain one or more unique hardware addresses corresponding to one or more target devices with which the host bus adapter is authorized to perform a port login.

24. (Amended) The host bus adapter HBA of claim 23, wherein the unique hardware address is a port name.

25. (Amended) The host bus adapter HBA of claim 23, wherein the unique hardware address is a node name.

26. (Amended) The host bus adapter HBA of claim 23, wherein the unique hardware address is a World-Wide Name.

27. (Amended) The host bus adapter HBA of claim 23, wherein the target device is a storage device.

28. (Amended) The host bus adapter HBA of claim 23, wherein the host bus adapter HBA comprises the memory.

29. (Amended) A computer system comprising:

a host bus adapter (~~HBA~~) operable to perform a port login comprising:

a memory;

a unique hardware address access table in memory, operable to contain one or more unique hardware addresses corresponding to one or more target devices with which the host bus adapter is authorized to perform a port login.

30. (Original) The computer system of claim 29, wherein the unique hardware address

is a port name.

31. (Original) The computer system of claim 29, wherein the unique hardware address

is a node name.

32. (Original) The computer system of claim 29, wherein the unique hardware address

is a World-Wide Name.

33. (Original) The computer system of claim 29, wherein the target device is a storage

device.

34. (Amended) The computer system of claim 29, wherein the host bus adapter HBA

comprises the memory.